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ACTIVITIES OF UNITED NATIONS BODIES RELEVANT TO THE ENTRY INTO FORCE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In the context of its preparations for the first session of the Conference of the Parties and the elaboration of its work plan, the Committee may wish to be aware of on-going activities within the United Nations system relevant to the entry into force and implementation of the Convention. This would be in the spirit of the consensus draft resolution on "Protection of global climate for present and future generation of mankind", currently before the General Assembly, paragraphs 8 and 9 of which read as follows:

"8. Requests the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to promote a coherent and coordinated programme of activities by competent bodies aimed at supporting the entry into force and effective implementation of the Convention, including strengthening the capacities of developing and all other countries to prepare for their participation in the Convention;

9. Calls upon the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system involved in work relating to climate change, including the interim secretariat of the Convention, to initiate and strengthen such activities, where possible in collaboration with each other, and invites them to make information on these activities and on any coordination arrangements regularly available to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, through its secretariat".

2. As a first step in this direction the following sections provide information on relevant activities of the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Global Environment Facility of the UNDP, UNEP and the IBRD. These four entities are referred to in the Convention. In addition, some information is given on related activities of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO and on a joint activity being planned by the secretariat of the Committee and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). In all cases information is derived from material provided by the entities in question.

3. An attempt has been made in the annex to this document to relate the various activities mentioned to specific articles listed in Annex I, part 1 of document A/AC.237/21. These articles concern tasks explicitly specified for the first session of the Conference of the Parties.

II. WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION (WMO)

4. WMO's mandate includes the following:

(i) Facilitating world-wide co-operation in the establishment of networks of stations for meteorological, hydrological and other geophysical observations;

(ii) Promoting the establishment and maintenance of centres providing meteorological and related services, and of systems for the rapid exchange of meteorological and related information.

5. The WMO develops and implements a number of international and intergovernmental programmes dealing with research, data collection and systematic observation. Virtually all major scientific and technical programmes of WMO include these elements, as well as capacity building elements. These purposes and programmes of the Organization are directly related to the Commitments of Parties, expressed under Article 4, paragraphs 1 (g) and (h), dealing with research, observations, data archiving and data exchange, as well as to Article 5, Research and Systematic Observation. Information on a number of programmes undertaken by WMO, sometimes in collaboration with other bodies, follows.

6. The World Weather Watch Programme co-ordinates the world-wide acquisition of meteorological and related observations, both from space and from land-based stations, ships and aircraft; the collection, processing and exchange of this information; the distribution of global, regional and local forecasts and other information for use by national Meteorological Services. Information generated is a

significant input to data archives related to the climate system which are referred to in Article 4, paragraph 1 (g). Together with other information, it constitutes a basis for further reduction or elimination of the remaining uncertainties regarding magnitude and timing of climate change.

7. The Marine Meteorological Programme assists in co-ordinating the global acquisition, collection, exchange, programming, and archival of marine meteorological and physical oceanographic data from above, at and below the sea surface. Much of this co-ordination is undertaken in close co-operation with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, in the context of the Integrated Global Ocean Services System (IGOSS). WMO is also co-operating with IOC in the development of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS).

8. The World Climate Programme (WCP) assists and facilitates the making, collection, use and interpretation of climatological observations and response strategies. Implemented in collaboration with a number of other agencies, the WCP was considered by the WMO Congress as the major WMO international scientific programme supporting the process of the implementation of the Framework Convention on Climate Change.

9. The Atmospheric Research and Environment Programme co-ordinates and fosters research on the structure and composition of the atmosphere, on weather forecasting and weather modification. In particular, the Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) associated with the Programme makes an essential contribution to the knowledge of the amount, distribution and changes of greenhouse gases including ozone.

10 The Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) will be responsible for meeting the observational needs for climate monitoring, climate change detection and climate prediction. It will address the data needs from the atmosphere, ocean, land, and cryosphere. In addition to WMO, its sponsors include the IOC of UNESCO, UNEP and ICSU.

11. The WMO Education and Training Programme assists in the attainment, by developing countries, of self-sufficiency in human resources, thus improving their endogenous capacities and capabilities to participate in international and intergovernmental programmes, and to strengthen relevant national observational and research activities.

12. Furthermore, the Technical Co-operation Programme provides effective mechanisms to assist all Members, especially developing countries, in providing adequate levels of meteorological and hydrological services for national development.

13. These programmes therefore serve the process of promoting and co-operating in education, training and public awareness related to climate change - referred to in Article 4, paragraph 1 (i) and Article 6, Education, Training and Public Awareness, of the Convention.

14. Finally, WMO is organizing an Intergovernmental Meeting on the World Climate Programme to be held in Geneva, from 14 to 16 April 1993. The meeting which is being co-sponsored by WMO, UNEP, FAO, UNESCO, IOC, UNDP and ICSU will focus on a Climate Agenda for the future in the light of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Agenda 21 emanating from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

III. UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)

15. UNEP activities in support of the Convention, in addition to those mentioned in the previous section include the following:

a) Country Studies: UNEP is involved in three types of country studies

   (i) In collaboration with the IPCC Working Group 1 on Scientific Aspects of Climate Change and OECD, studies concerned with the development and testing of methodologies for compiling inventories of greenhouse gas emissions. These activities can be considered to be supportive of the Convention's Article 4 1(a), (b); 4.2 (b), (c); 12.1(a).

   (ii) Climate Impact assessment studies carried out in South-East Asia, Vietnam, Brazil and proposed for Namibia seek to alert countries to the need for and usefulness of national impact studies. These studies and proposed future activities would be in support of Articles 5 (b), (c).

   (iii) Country studies being carried out to develop a methodology for estimating the costs of greenhouse gas control through improved energy production and use efficiency and the acquisition of cleaner technology to limit greenhouse gas emissions. This activity will be supportive of Article 12.2 (b). A country study report providing information on national climate-related studies is published, updated and regularly distributed by UNEP.

b) UNEP has established an Information Unit on Climate Change which, in collaboration with the INC/FCCC secretariat is expected to assist towards the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention. A

specific joint venture will be the publication of a quarterly Climate Change Newsletter, also sponsored by IPCC.

c) The Industry and Environment Programme Activity Centre will be evolving a work programme in support of the implementation of Agenda 21 and various articles of the Climate Convention - notably Articles 4.1 (g), (h), 4.3, and 4.5. Detailed activities are, however, not yet developed.

d) UNEP's International Environmental Information System (INFOTERRA) has a body of data that could be useful to the INC/FCCC. Modalities for collaboration would need, as in all the other areas, to be carefully worked out.

IV. WMO/UNEP INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE (IPCC)

16. Since the completion of the 1992 IPCC Supplement, which was made available to the Committee at its fifth session in February 1992, the following meetings of the IPCC have taken place:

- The IPCC Task Force on IPCC Structure (second session in Geneva from 27 to 28 August 1992 and third and final session in Harare from 9 to 10 November 1992, respectively);

- The IPCC Bureau (fifth session in Geneva on 29 August 1992);

- The IPCC (eighth session in Harare from 11 to 13 November 1992).

The Chairman of the INC and the INC secretariat were invited to the sessions.

17. The principle that guided the work of the Task Force was the betterment of the geographical representation in the work of the Panel while preserving its scientific and technical nature. The IPCC Bureau advised the Chairman on the items for inclusion in the provisional agenda for the eighth session of the IPCC.

18. As a result of the decisions at its eighth session, the IPCC Working Groups have been reorganized as follows:

(a) Working Group I would assess available information on the science of climate change, in particular that arising from human activities. It would develop:

(i) a methodology for the preparation of national inventories of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases (in

cooperation with the IPCC Members, the OECD and other organizations as appropriate) and

(ii) guidelines for comparable methodologies for these inventories, taking into account the requirements of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and

(iii) on the basis of (ii) above and by other means, establish best possible estimates of past and present regional and global net emissions of greenhouse gases.

(b) Working Group II would assess available scientific, technical, environmental, social and economic information regarding impacts of climate change and regarding response options to adapt to and/or mitigate climate change. It would consider, inter alia:

(i) the impacts of climate change on:

- vulnerable areas;

- resources and ecosystems;

- human activities;

Consideration would include assessment in each of these areas of the sensitivity at the regional and national level to the nature, rate and magnitude of potential climate change;

(ii) assessments of future trends of net emissions of greenhouse gases, impacts of changing technology, adaptation to climate change, response options to adapt to climate change and response options to mitigate climate change by addressing future trends in the net emissions of all greenhouse gases and other factors of climate change, with particular attention given to the special needs of the developing countries.

It would develop common methodologies, where needed, for application by those desiring to use them; such work would include the development of guidelines for making national assessments of the impacts of climate change and methodology to assess technology options.

Working Group II will carry out its terms of reference by forming four Subgroups as follows:

- Subgroup A, dealing, inter alia, with energy; industry; transportation; urban issues including related human settlements, air quality and health; waste management and disposal;

- Subgroup B, dealing, inter alia, with small islands and coastal zones; oceans and marine ecosystems; tropical cyclones; storms surges and sea level change;

- Subgroup C, dealing, inter alia, with unmanaged resources and terrestrial ecosystems, mountain regions, cryosphere, hydrology and terrestrial impacts of climate events such as floods;

- Subgroup D, dealing, inter alia, with desertification; droughts; agriculture; forests; land use including various forms of human settlements; health; management of water resources.

(c) Working Group III would deal with cross-cutting economic and other issues related to climate change. Two issues have been identified below at this stage. The IPCC may add other issues at subsequent plenary sessions. The Working Group would establish its work plan for tasks (i) and (ii) below, to be available to the IPCC for subsequent reviews as its work proceeds.

(i) Technical assessments of the socio-economics of impacts, adaptation and mitigation of climate change over both the short and long term and at the regional and global levels. The work plan should, inter alia, consider the following topics: top-down and bottom up economic modelling while taking into account assumptions, variables and applicability to and in different national economic circumstances; the evolution of technological change; methods for risk assessment; methods for the generic assessment of response instruments provided, however, that none of these tasks shall involve the Working Group in making policy judgements.

(ii) The Working Group should consider and develop as necessary a range of internally consistent scenarios for future emissions based on reasonable economic, demographic and technological projections, and taking account of gaps and uncertainties in available knowledge, especially concerning the evolution of socio-economic development and technology; where possible, policy assumptions should reflect their economic and social consequences. The scenarios are intended to assist Working Groups I and II in their assessment of a range of future changes of atmospheric composition, resulting climate changes, and their impacts.

19. The reconstituted IPCC Bureau has 15 members from developing countries and 1 from a country with economy in transition in a total of 28. Professor B. Bolin continues as the Chairman of the IPCC.

20. The IPCC will aim to complete its Second Assessment Report in 1995 and, if necessary, an interim report to the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

21. The Chairman of the IPCC will add to this report in his oral presentation to the Committee on 9 December 1992.

V. UNDP/UNEP/IBRD GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY (GEF)

22. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a three-year pilot project that provides grants for investment projects, technical assistance, and - to a lesser extent - research. GEF resources are used to explore ways of assisting developing countries to protect the global environment and to transfer environmentally benign technologies. In doing so, the activities of the GEF are in harmony with the development goals of the countries involved.

23. The Facility was set up to assist developing countries deal with four main global environmental problems:

- Global warming, particularly the effects on the world's climate of greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the use of fossil fuels and the destruction of carbon-absorbing forests.

- Pollution of international waters through, for example, oil spills and the accumulation of waste in oceans and international river systems.

- Destruction of biological diversity through the degradation of natural habitats and the exploitation of natural resources.

- Depletion of the stratospheric ozone layer from emissions of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), halons, and other gases.

24. There is no set formula, but the rule of thumb in the allocation of GEF resources is that 40-50 percent should go to projects to reduce global warming, 30-40 percent to conserve biological diversity, and 10-20 percent to protect international waters. Most ozone projects are funded by the Montreal Protocol's Interim Multilateral Fund.

25. About 40 percent of the $700 million worth of projects in the GEF work program at the end of 1992 are aimed at reducing emissions of greenhouse gases or providing sinks for their sequestration. The main themes included among the 38 projects in the global warming portfolio concern renewable energy sources, fuel shifts, demand side management, and carbon sequestration. The transfer of sophisticated energy supply and demand management technology is a cross-cutting element.

The renewable portfolio features promising backstop technologies including photovoltaic and windpower, biomass gasification, anaerobic digestion of organic residues from agro-industry and urban households, and geothermal and hydropower, including novel approaches to overcoming market barriers. Modern fuels projects include coal-to-gas heat and power conversions. Energy demand management approaches are addressed in industry, commercial buildings, and transport and households, demonstrating both new technology and organizational innovation. Carbon sequestration features in several afforestation and woodland management projects and is linked to biodiversity conservation.

26. The GEF is undertaking policy work in a number of areas that have emerged as requiring further analytical scrutiny. A major concern is to translate the Convention's guidance into GEF priorities, policies and procedures that permit the implementation of a project portfolio that, in a cost-effective manner, contributes to the mitigation of the global environmental threat. Until the Convention is ratified, the focus is on ensuring convergence of the objectives of the pilot phase with those of the Convention. In this effort, the secretariat of GEF is developing increasingly close working relations with the interim secretariat of the Climate Change Convention.

27. GEF Working Paper No.3, entitled Economic Costs of Carbon Dioxide Reduction Strategies, was issued in October 1992. It recommends a number of steps for developing a least cost greenhouse gas emissions abatement strategy, including the preparation of national marginal cost abatement strategies. This work is likely to be a prerequisite for effectively analyzing incremental costs. In addition, a major analytical effort is being undertaken to provide the operational underpinning of the concept of "agreed full incremental cost". This programme, the Programme for Incremental Costs for the Environment (PRINCE), has received some bilateral funding and will be launched at a seminar at the Tata Energy Research Institute in New Delhi in early 1993. Further funding will be sought in due course. The initial focus will be on incremental costs in relation to climate change, specifically the development of a clear and unambiguous methodology for their calculation. One key problem is to define the baseline against which incremental costs are measured.

28. Guidance for GEF-funded activities for CFC phase-out comes from the Convention/Montreal Protocol. The GEF's work focuses on operationalizing this guidance for the Eastern Europe/CIS Region, an area which includes major producers and users of ozone-depleting substances (ODSs) that currently are ineligible for funding from the Interim Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol. Technical and scientific guidance on the Bank's activities in this thematic area is provided by a team made up of several of the world's leading engineers

covering each ODS sector. STAP members are invited to attend team meetings as observers.

29. The Participants' Assembly of the GEF is currently considering various aspects of the governance of the Facility. A main aim of this review is to ensure that the GEF may function within the framework of the conventions on climate change and bio-diversity, to which it now linked on an interim basis. Discussions on governance issues will be carried forward at the meeting of the Participants' Assembly of GEF in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 3 to 5 December 1992. Papers presented to that meeting for consideration deal with the legal framework of the GEF and with decision-making in the Participants' Assembly. The Chairman of the Participants Assembly will provide information on the outcome of that meeting when he addresses the committee on 9 December 1992.

VI. INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION (IOC) OF UNESCO

30. In addition to contributing to certain programmes mentioned in section II, the IOC is the "lead agency" in the development of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), which is well coordinated with the development of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS). Discussions are being pursued with WMO, UNEP and ICSU on co-sponsorship of the GOOS development, along similar lines as in the case for GCOS. The climate module of GOOS is expected to be basically the ocean module of GCOS. Further IOC, with UNEP and IUCN and to some extent WMO, is pursuing a series of pilot monitoring studies related to the improvement of the information basis for assessing the possible impact of climate changes on coastal zones and areas.

31. Agenda 21 also invites the IOC to lead in the development of GOOS and in further assessments of the role of the ocean as a sink/source for CO_2 (Chapter 17, Part E, Agenda 21). Contacts with selected scientists have been initiated.

VII. JOINT ACTIVITY: INC/FCCC SECRETARIAT AND THE UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH (UNITAR)

32. The INC/FCCC secretariat and UNITAR are exploring with UNDP, GEF, and IPCC an Information and Training Programme to support the implementation of the Convention by promoting information, training and dialogue on national and sub-regional policies and measures responding to the provisions of the Convention.

33. Operating through national or multi-country workshops, the programme will provide developing and other countries with information about climate change, its impacts, its broad policy implications, the provisions of the Convention and the opportunities for scientific, technological and financial

cooperation that it offers to countries that become Parties. It will also initiate the response process by providing an overview of policy options and institutional and other resources and by motivating the participants to become a part of this process. The workshops will assemble representative groups of governmental and non-governmental partners and will stimulate interaction among them in a workshop environment, as an input to subsequent national and sub-regional policy formulation and capacity building. The workshops may also help the participating countries in identifying their needs for future external assistance and in ratifying and implementing the Convention. Expert inputs will also be sought from the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant organizations, including in particular, institutions located in developing countries. Relevant national institutions of the country or region where the workshop will be held will also be involved in the preparation and implementation of the project.

34. The one-year pilot phase of the programme will comprise up to four workshops (of which at least two will be multi-country). On the basis of that experience, the programme would be intensified and expanded over the following two to three years. Future directions for the programme will be determined by the feedback and experience of the pilot phase workshops.

Activities in support of tasks explicitly specified for the first session of the Conference of the Parties

Article 4:

para. 2 (c) Consider and agree on methodologies for the calculation of emissions by sources and removal by sinks of greenhouse gases, for the purposes of Article 4, subparagraph 2 (b).

Work in this area is being carried out by IPCC. Complementary studies are also being carried out by UNEP.

para. 2 (d) Review the adequacy of subparagraphs 2(a) and 2(b) of Article 4, in the light of the best available scientific information and assessment on climate change and its impacts, as well as relevant technical, social and economic information.

The newly restructured IPCC plans to produce its next scientific assessment by early 1995. An advance summary assessment will be available to the Conference of the Parties if it is convened earlier. Studies by GEF and UNEP may also contribute relevant information.

para. 2 (e) Take decisions regarding criteria for joint implementation of policies and measures for the mitigation of climate change as indicated in Article 4, subparagraph 2(a).

Studies being carried out by GEF, IPCC, and UNEP, may provide information that is relevant to decisions regarding these criteria.

It should be mentioned that activities of the WMO described on pp. 2 and 3, paras. 3 to 13 are basic to those conducted by IPCC, UNEP GEF and others in respect of 2(c) and 2(d) above.

Article 11:
para. 4

Make arrangements to implement the provisions of paragraphs 1,2 and 3 of Article 11, reviewing and taking into account the interim arrangements referred to in Article 21, paragraph 3, and decide whether these interim arrangements shall be maintained.

This set of tasks will be undertaken in the light of the ongoing work of GEF and its restructuring.

Article 12:
para. 7

Arrange for the provision to developing country Parties of technical and financial support, on request, in compiling and communicating information under Article 12, as well as in identifying the technical and financial needs associated with proposed projects and response measures under Article 4.

All the entities covered by this report, as well as the interim secretariat of the Convention, are among the many international bodies that can contribute to a coherent and coordinated programme of activities in support of developing country Parties. The draft resolution currently before the General Assembly requests the INC/FCCC to promote such a programme. (See paras. 8 and 9 of the draft resolution), quoted in para. 1 of the present document).